
EAST BAY EXPRESS
FLOW JACK CITY
While the East Bay's influence on mainstream hip-hop has gone overlooked for decades, a new generation of break-out artists are reclaiming their musical heritage and drawing national attention back to the region.
By Nastia Voynovskaya

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NEWS&OPINION

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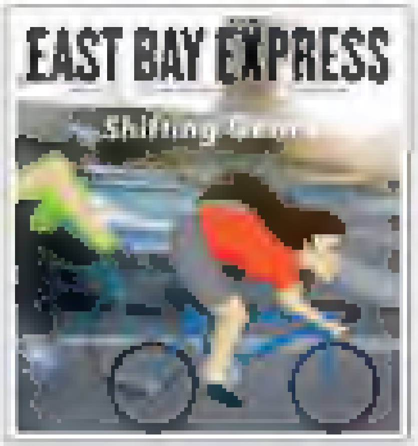
MOVIES

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EAST BAY EXPRESS


CRACK OPEN THIS SIX-TIME Medal WINNER AT THE GREAT AMERICAN BEER FESTIVAL.
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LETTERS

We Need a Better Planning Process

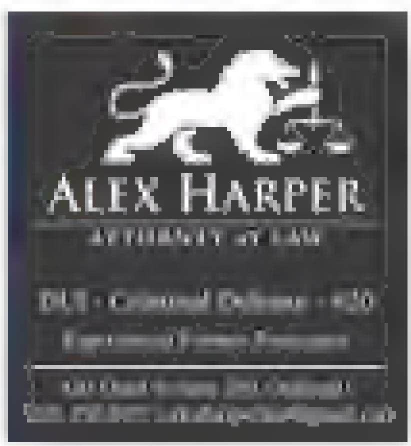
We Need More Bike Parking

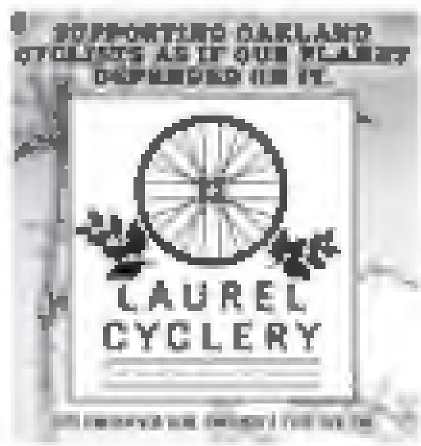
It's Dangerous Out There

Farmers Are Sacrificing

Robert Gammon Responds








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And because that's the figure used by your organization, the Almond Board of California, I have corrected the piece to reflect that fact.

Nonetheless, exporting 70 percent of a crop that is using about 10 percent of the available water in the state is not sound policy. And in a drought, it's absurd.

As for almond growers taking a hit during the drought, the numbers don't bear that out. According to the Almond Board, almond exports increased last year compared to the previous year, as the number of almond acres went up as well.

Moreover, as you know, agriculture has been pumping huge amounts of groundwater during the drought in order to support the nut crop. As has been reported elsewhere, parts of the Central Valley have now sunk by as much as one foot because of all the pumping.

That's just not sustainable.

Here's to Long Showers

Good article. Add another big water waster — the soft drink companies such as Dr. Pepper in Victorville. It uses [illegible] million gallons of water a year in a high desert location. And in Beverly Hills, Bel Air, and other Los Angeles localities, they are tearing down big mansions to build mega-mansions with more bathrooms than many small hotels, and more than two swimming pools.

So why should the little guys be fined for washing their cars and watering their lawns to protect their home investment? Especially when Stewart and Lynda Resnick (who live in the largest mansion in Beverly Hills) and [illegible], their Silicon Valley real estate development partner in the Kern Water Bank, can resell California water for millions of dollars of profits for themselves, thanks to the Monterey Amendments [illegible] that they got back in [illegible] from the State of California?

Until these inequities are solved, yes, I, too, will continue to take long showers in protest to the mismanagement from the California bureaucrats in Sacramento and influence of politicians such as Senator Dianne Feinstein, who goes out of her way to channel more water to the Resnicks every chance she gets.

[illegible]

There Are No Bad Guys Here

A question to ponder: If California agriculture gets cut back who will be most affected? Farmers yes, but how about the consumers in the cities who will pay much more for their food and maybe have less fresh food? There are no [illegible] in this — just a lot of Californians who need to work together to deal with the new normal.

[illegible], Oakland

Where's the Balance?

California almonds again are coming under attack, this time by the editor of the *Express*, who presents a one-sided viewpoint that claims too much water is used to grow almonds and that 70 percent of the harvested crop is shipped overseas, mostly to China.

Success are cited in the article are longtime critics of California's farming industry and refuse to acknowledge its benefits. They attempt to carve out a single portion — almonds — to drive home their point that they know better than farmers in deciding which crops should be grown.

It is unfortunate that the readers of the *Express* are not exposed to other viewpoints from those who are deeply involved in growing the food and fiber they eat, as well as for consumers throughout California and around the world. I have previously submitted a letter to the *Express* that provided a balanced approach to farming in the San Joaquin Valley and I find myself compelled to once again attempt to provide that balance.

I grow approximately nine hundred acres of almonds on my farm, which represents about one-fourth of my farm's acreage. I experience anger and exasperation each time I read another attack on a crop and an industry by those who really do not understand the decision-making that I go through in determining which crop to plant. I do not just wake up one day and select the crop that is going to make me the most money. My first step in the decision-making process is to determine which crop consumers will buy at their local grocery store.

Yes, a major portion of the harvested almond crop in California finds its way to consumers in overseas markets. The return on this portion of the crop enables me and other farmers to continue growing for consumers everywhere and at the same time provide jobs for individuals who have been a part of my farm for generations.

If there is not a demand for the crop, then no farmer in his right mind will plant it. If there is another crop that I can grow that will provide a greater financial return than what I receive from almonds and consumers will buy it, then I'll switch crops.

Some people think that farmers are getting filthy rich from growing almonds, but they don't understand the economics of farming. The financial returns I receive from growing almonds help my farm survive, especially in these drought years in which I have left [illegible] acres unplanted because of a lack of water.

[illegible]

Corrections

Our March [illegible] dining review, "[illegible]," listed the incorrect address and phone number for [illegible]. The correct address is [illegible] Street, Oakland. The correct phone number is [illegible]. Our March [illegible] Seven Days column, "A Drop in the Bucket," misstated the amount of water California has left overall, because of an error in a Los Angeles Times op-ed by NASA water scientist Jay Famiglietti. The Times corrected its op-ed to reflect the fact that Famiglietti stated that there is only about one year of water left in the state's reservoirs. And our March [illegible] Theater Review, "[illegible]," incorrectly identified the actors in [illegible] who played the [illegible] characters. They were [illegible] and [illegible]. In addition, it was [illegible] who played the [illegible] part.


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Don't Sell Oakland Short

The city should get a better deal for a prime piece of taxpayer-owned land near Lake Merritt.

By Robert Gammon

Commonwealth Club to Fête Chevron CEO

The public affairs nonprofit plans to bestow John Watson with its "Distinguished Citizen Award" despite the oil giant's environmentally destructive practices.

By Julia Gehuardi

The Commonwealth Club of California is drawing criticism from dozens of environmental and human rights groups from around the globe because of its plans to fête Chevron CEO John Watson and bestow its "Distinguished Citizen Award" on him at its annual fundraising gala this week. The environmental groups have asked the Commonwealth Club to rescind Watson's award because of the damage and destruction Chevron has wreaked on communities around the world.

The Commonwealth Club's [illegible] annual gala will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in San Francisco on Thursday and is expected to raise more than [illegible] million for the public affairs nonprofit — the oldest of its kind in the United States. Typically, the club gives awards to the leaders of industry who have significantly contributed to the global community. Watson's co-recipients this year are venture capitalist [illegible], Levi Strauss CEO Chip Bergh, and Jennifer Siebel Newsom, a documentary filmmaker and wife of Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom.

Amazon Watch, an Oakland-based nonprofit that works to protect the world's rainforests, has sent a letter, co-signed by [illegible] environmental responsibility groups, to the Commonwealth Club's president and governing board members asking them to rescind Watson's award. But according to a spokesperson for Amazon Watch, the nonprofit has not received a reply. A Commonwealth Club spokesperson also did not return calls for this report. On Monday, Amazon Watch announced that it will take part in an alternative award ceremony outside the gala during which Watson will be awarded the dishonorable "Public Eye Award" for Chevron's bad corporate behavior in Ecuador.

The club has not disclosed why Watson merited the Distinguished Citizen Award. But according to Chevron's website, the company has donated millions of dollars to social welfare organizations in Africa, South America, and the United States. In Nigeria, Chevron contributed [illegible] million to improve socioeconomic conditions. Chevron also gave [illegible] million to the Global Fund, which fights HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, primarily in Africa. In the United States, Chevron has contributed [illegible] million toward education programs in the past three years. It also donated [illegible] million globally during [illegible] to develop teaching programs that emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math.

But Amazon Watch [illegible] Paul [illegible] Miller said [illegible] add up to little more than public relations greenwashing. "That money is a drop in the bucket compared to the money they spend on legal fees to avoid their responsibility for environmental and human rights disasters they have created," Miller said. "If you spend [illegible] million to fight AIDS in Nigeria, does that make it okay to deliberately cause cancer on an epidemic scale elsewhere in the world?"

In [illegible], Chevron earned profits of nearly [illegible] billion.

In [illegible], an Ecuadorian court ordered Chevron to pay [illegible] plaintiffs from the Lago Agrio region [illegible] billion for years of dumping "produced water" — a carcinogenic byproduct of oil drilling procedures — into open pits. The toxic water leached into streams and rivers that the Indigenous community relied on for drinking water. The Lago Agrio plaintiffs cited numerous studies that found that the toxic dumping resulted in elevated cancer rates. In [illegible], the Ecuadorian Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and held Chevron liable for cleanup costs. Chevron denied that there's a connection between the increase of cancer and their [illegible] practices and refused to pay the fines.

The multinational oil company has spent an [illegible] [illegible] billion in legal fees to avoid paying the fines and another [illegible] million to pursue racketeering charges against the plaintiffs and their attorneys in US federal courts. Lower courts ruled in favor of Chevron, but the decision is on appeal.

According to Amazon Watch, Chevron has been the global poster child for corporate irresponsibility and bad behavior. In [illegible], a Chevron oil spill contaminated the waters off the southeastern coast of Brazil. In Nigeria, a drilling borehole exploded, killed two employees, and ignited a fire that burned for [illegible] days. In Bangladesh, a sloppy Chevron seismic survey resulted in a fire that significantly burned a forest in the Lawachara National Park. In the United States, there was an explosion and fire — which sent [illegible] people to local hospitals complaining of respiratory problems — in [illegible] at the company's Richmond refinery. The Richmond City Council filed a lawsuit against Chevron, which is still pending, and in [illegible], the company pleaded no contest to six counts of criminal negligence and paid a [illegible] million fine.

"John Watson earns a [illegible] million salary while he makes a mockery of the rule of law and consistently abuses the communities where his company operates," Miller said. "It is shocking the Commonwealth Club would consider honoring him."

[illegible]



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NEWS

Putting Citizens in Charge of Police Complaints

A proposal to have the Citizens Police Review Board process complaints against OPD officers — blocked in 2013 by a federal court appointee — is back on the council's agenda.

By Darwin BondGraham


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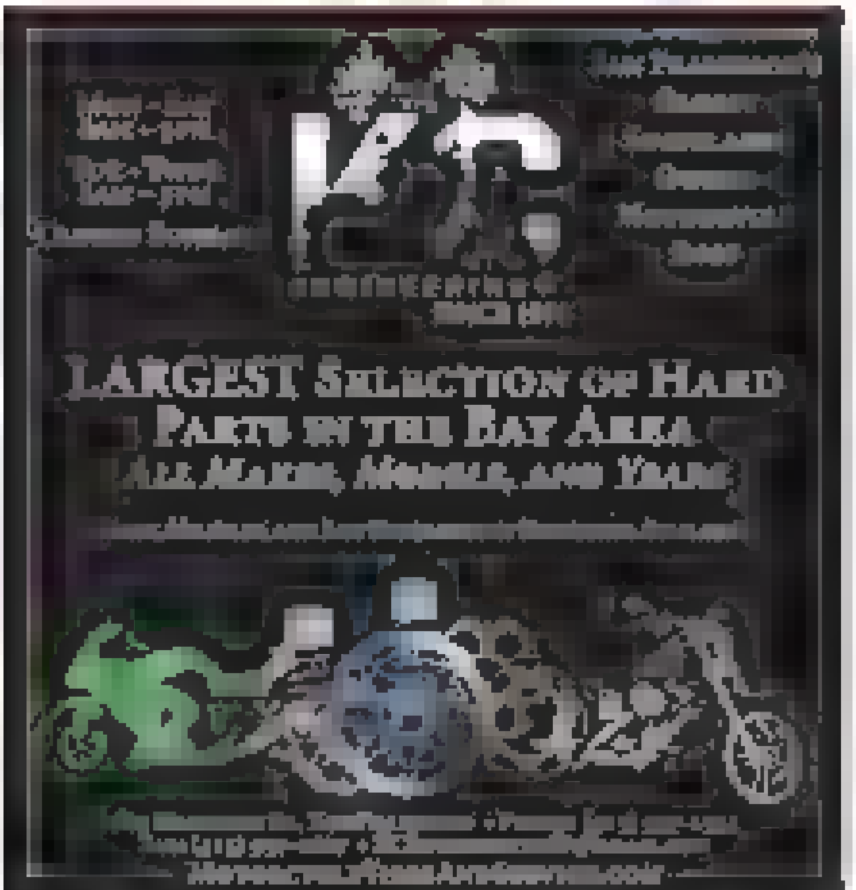
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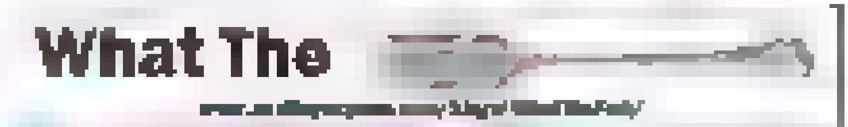


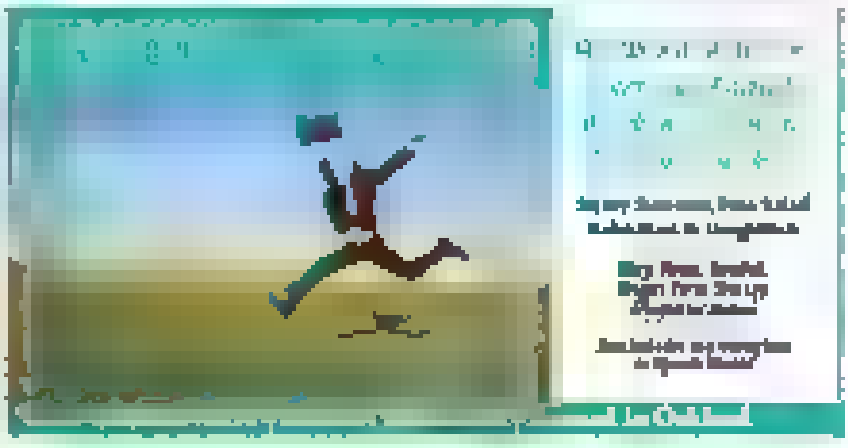
When Landlords Harass Tenants

After buying a dozen Oakland properties, a real estate investor has repeatedly violated city codes — and tenants say the new landlord is trying to push them out with rampant construction.






What The




The Broken Rack
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Flow Jack City

While the East Bay's influence on mainstream hip hop has gone overlooked for decades, a new generation of break-out artists are reclaiming their musical heritage and drawing national attention back to the region



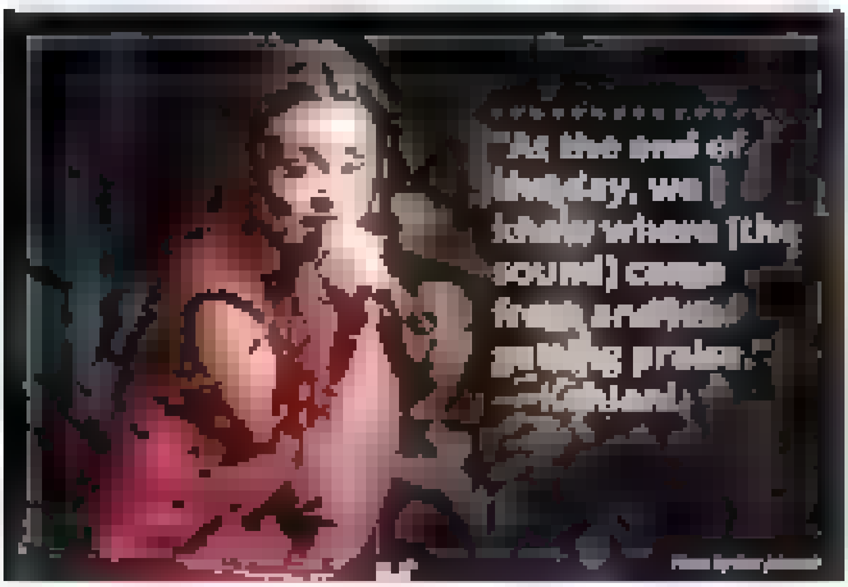








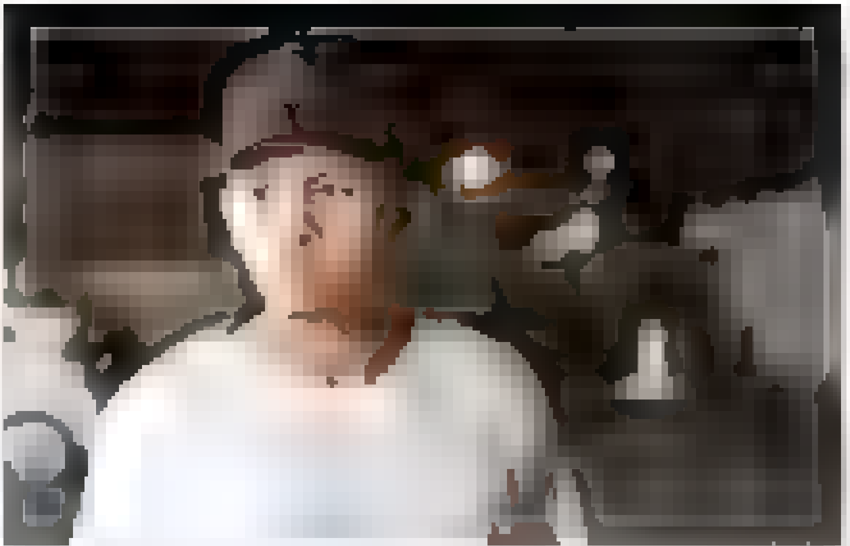
mouse
Sat 4/4: Easter Eggs 'n OJ
Enjoy a mimosa on us this Saturday, and be on the lookout for Easter "prize eggs" in-store and mall-wide.
Did someone say mimosas?
Let's go!
2223 South Shore Center, Alameda 510.814.8830
/modernmouse



"At the end of the day, we know where [the sound] came from and it's getting praise."
—Kehlani



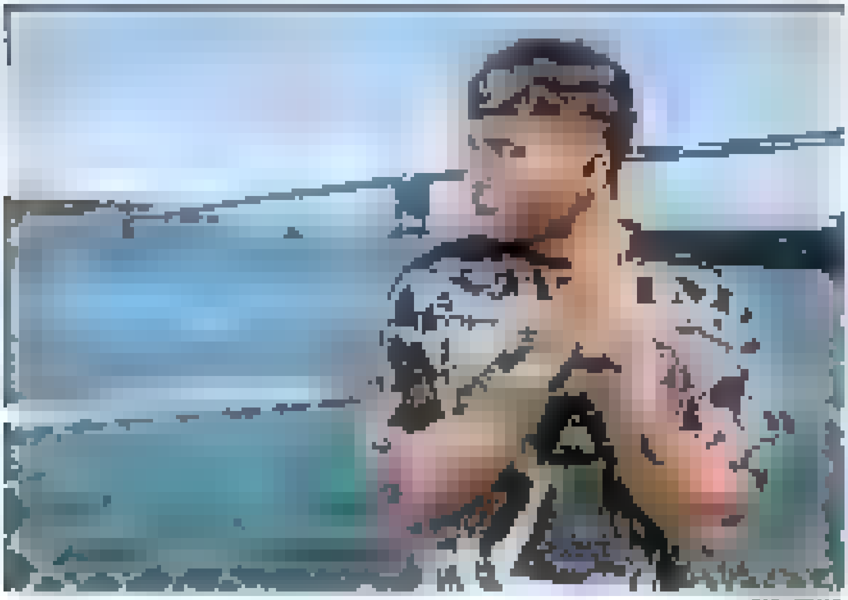
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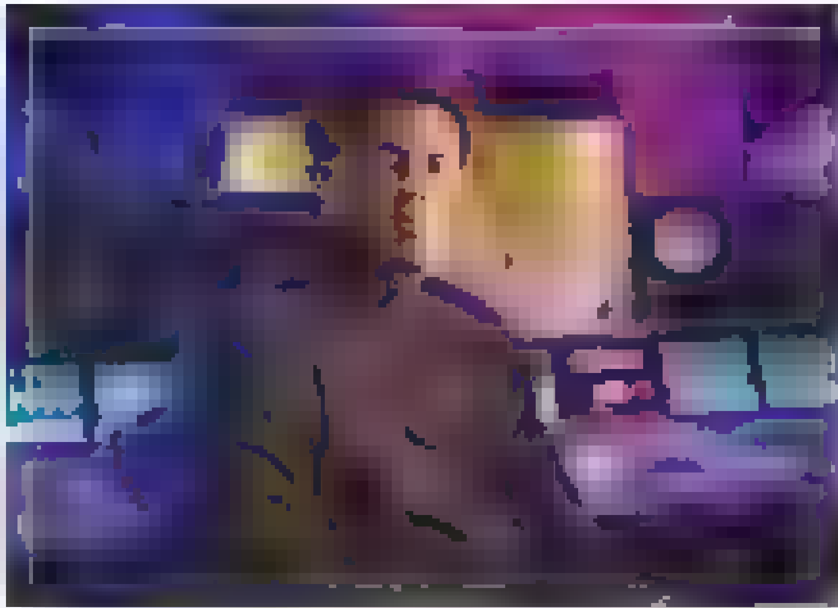
EMERYVILLE

OAKLAND

RICHMOND/EL CERRITO

SAN LEANDRO





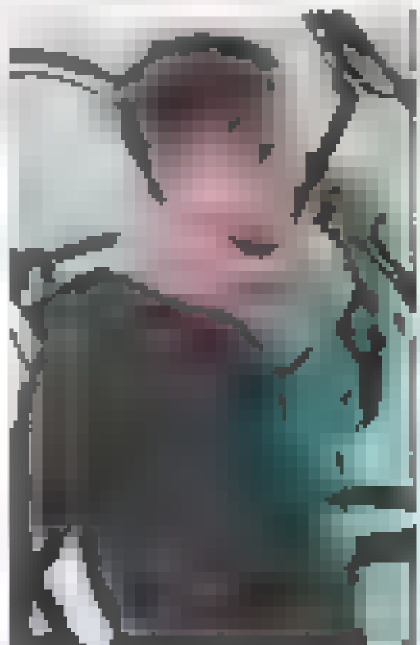
Whose Home?

After a racist incident at the Elmwood Café in Berkeley, comedian W. Kamau Bell discusses the realization that "The worst feeling is to go home and feel like home doesn't want you there."





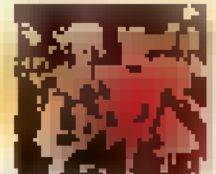
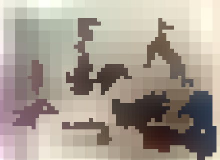
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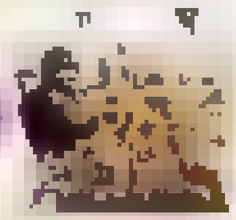
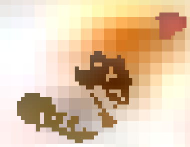


















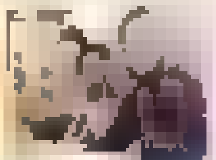




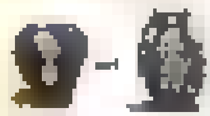


















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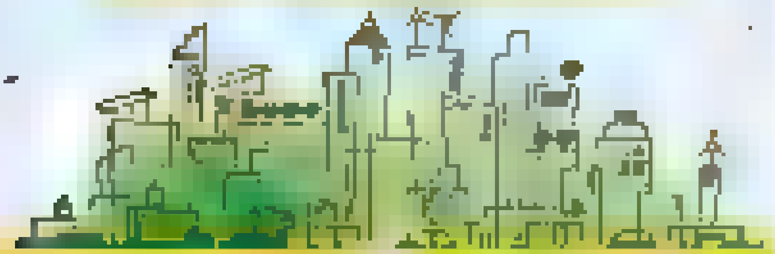
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The Oakland Avant-Drag

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By Sarah Burke



Oakland International Film Festival










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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the Express for more information on East Bay art showings.

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center
[illegible]

[illegible] Studio & Galleries
[illegible]

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes
[illegible]

BERKELEY

Berkeley Potters Guild
[illegible]

Berkeley Screenprint Co.
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]

Kala Gallery
[illegible]

Urbanity
[illegible]

OAKLAND

The [illegible] Jefferson Gallery
[illegible]

[illegible] Street Gallery
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

Actual Café
[illegible]

Art & Entertainment
[illegible]

Awaken Café
[illegible] Broadway

Bellevue Club
[illegible]

Black Zoo
[illegible]

Café Van Kleef
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

The Compound Gallery
[illegible]

Crown Nine Jewelry Boutique and Art Gallery
[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible] San Pablo Ave.

[illegible] Space
[illegible] San Pablo Ave.

J Rock Design Studio
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

The Layover
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

Oakland First Fridays Street Festival
[illegible]

Oaklandish
[illegible] Broadway

The [illegible] Salon
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

Royal NoneSuch Gallery
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

Somar Bar and Lounge
[illegible]

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
[illegible]

Studio One Art Center
[illegible]

Tech Liminal
[illegible]

Telegraph Beer Garden
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

Temescal Art Center
[illegible]

The [illegible] Women's Art & Design Studio
[illegible]

White Box Gallery at Oakland School of the Arts
[illegible] San Pablo Ave.

OAKLAND ART MURMUR

Aggregate Space Gallery
[illegible]

American Steel Studios
[illegible]

Betti Ono
[illegible] Broadway

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary
[illegible]

Classic Cars West
[illegible]

Creative Framing and Gallery
[illegible]

Creative Growth Art Center
[illegible]

Era Art Bar
[illegible]

[illegible] East
[illegible]

Field Day And Friends
[illegible]

FM
[illegible]

Free Oakland UP
[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

The Great Wall of Oakland
[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

Johansson Projects
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

Joyce Gordon Gallery
[illegible] 14th St.

Krowswork
[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]

Marion and Rose's Workshop
[illegible]

Mercury 20
[illegible]

The New Parkway Theater
[illegible]

[illegible] / The Moon
[illegible]

Oakstop
[illegible] Broadway

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible] Broadway

[illegible]
[illegible]

Pro Arts
[illegible]

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

[illegible] Gallery
[illegible]

[illegible] Studios
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

SoleSpace
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

[illegible] Studios
[illegible] Telegraph Ave.

SLATE contemporary
[illegible]

Studio 11
[illegible]

Transmission Gallery
[illegible]

Uptown Art Park
[illegible]

Vessel Gallery
[illegible]

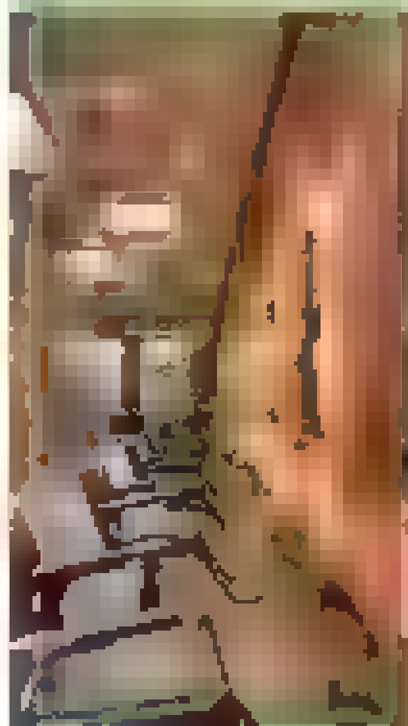
The Wall Gallery
[illegible]

Warehouse 416
[illegible]

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Night Songs



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How Do We Fix Our Broken World?

We need change ... And we need help

INSPIRING MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS

EVENT INFORMATION

FREE ADMISSION



Extracurricular Dance

In Perform, Educate, Deborah Karp and others explore the relationship between teaching and creating through movement and dialogue.

By Sarah Burke









The Sex Ed You Wish You Had

Allena Moon's new book, *Girl Sex 101*, is an informative, sexy guide for all your girl-lovin' needs.

By Anna Pulley

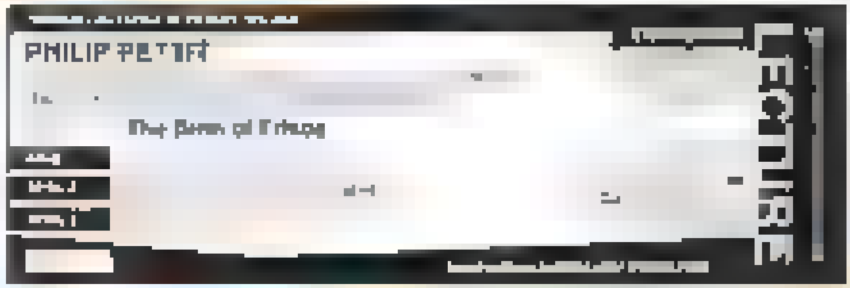
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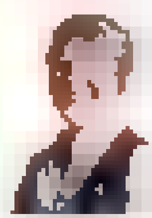


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Going "Paleo" at Mission Heirloom, Berkeley's new temple of grain-free, toxin-free eating.

By Luke [illegible]

[illegible]

Mission Heirloom Garden Cafe

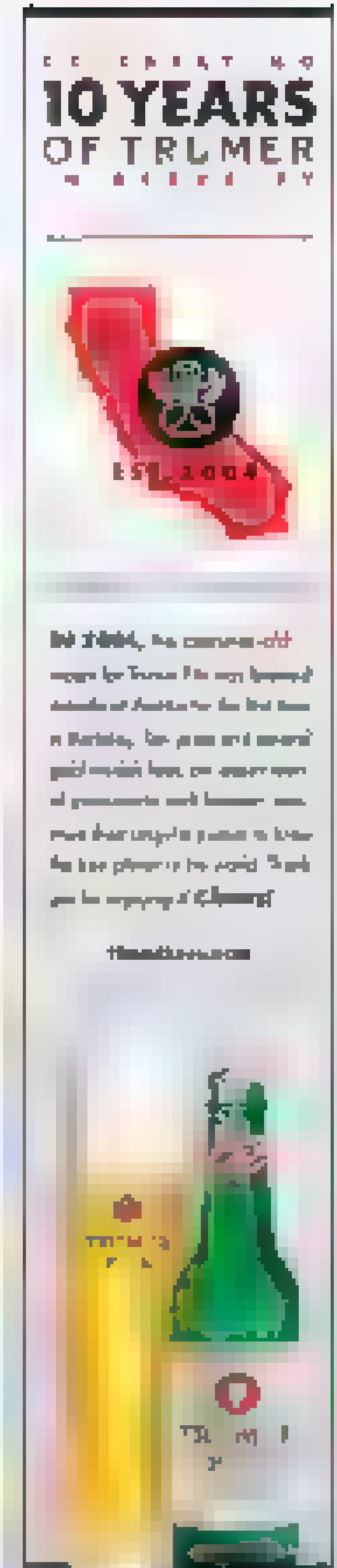
[illegible]

Sample Menu

[illegible]







Award Winning Vegan Cafe

nature's express

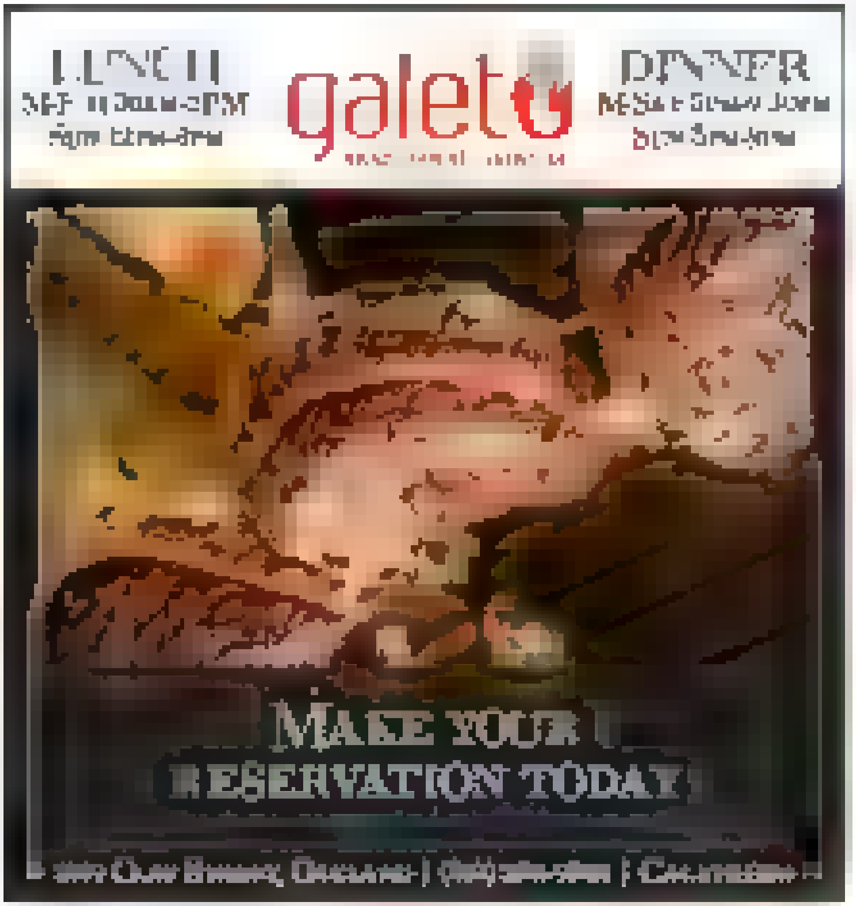
PERDITION SMOKEHOUSE

THE TERRACE ROOM RESTAURANT & BAR

FLAVOR BRIGADE

Buy one Frozen Custard Get one FREE!





LUNCH
DINNER
galeto
MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION TODAY



PYRAMID



JOIN US FOR
OUR SUNDAY
BRUNCH!
SHRIMP
HAPPY HOUR
Monday thru Friday
Bar Bites



WEEKEND SOUL BRUNCH
Saturdays & Sundays
10:30am 2:30pm
Catfish Benedicts
Shrimp & Grits
Biscuits & Gravy
2221 BROADWAY @ W GRAND



Happy Hour
4:30-6PM



Now you can enjoy our happy hour while sitting outdoors. Bike & Dog friendly too!

RESTAURANT HOURS
WED - SAT
4:30 - 9:30 PM

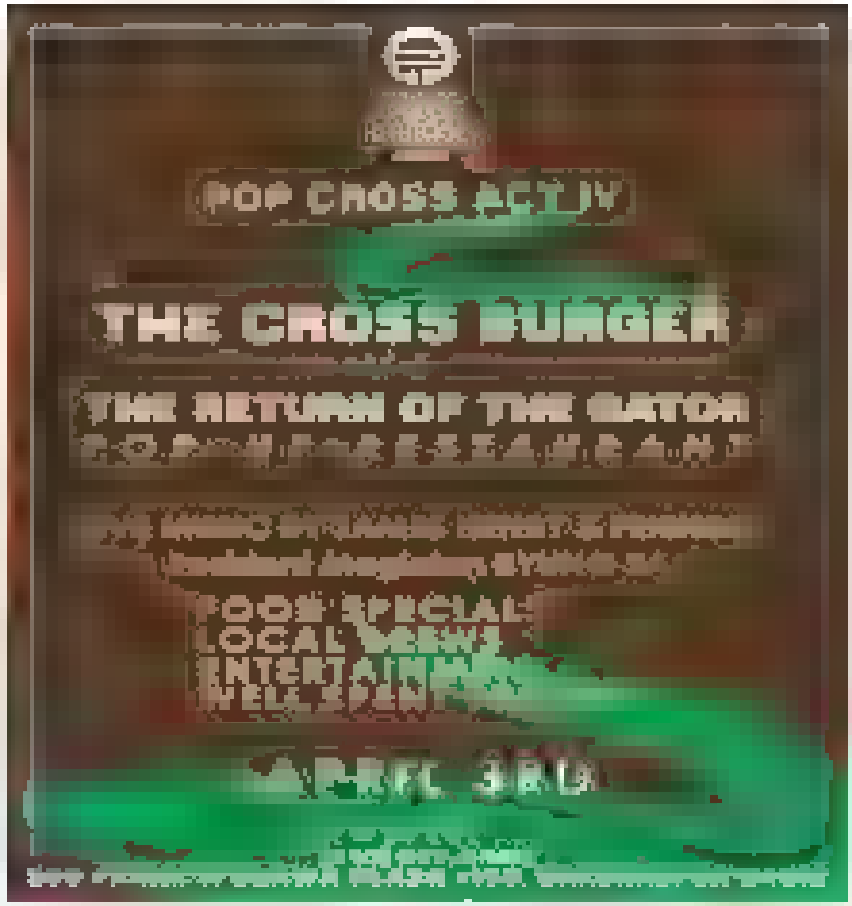
Weeds You Can Eat

Plus: Strawberry Market, Uptown's new grocery store



Uptown's New Grocery Store

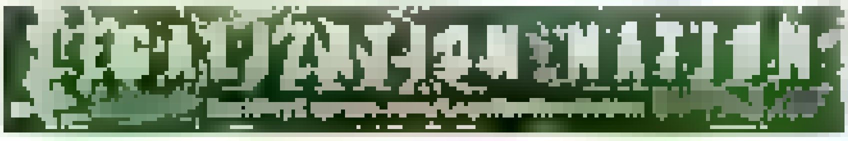

DRAKES BREWING
BARREL HOUSE
TAP ROOM ••• RETAIL SA


POP CROSS ACT IV
THE CROSS BURGER
THE RETURN OF THE GATOR


encuentro
440 2nd St., Jack London Square, Oakland


PYRAMID
AUTISM
BEER INFUSED
CUPCAKE COMPETITION
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH 1-4 P.M.









Gluten-Free Friendly Restaurants in Berkeley, Emeryville, and North Oakland

Bureau 510

Cactus Taqueria

Cafe Gratitude

Cha Am

Gather

The Grease Box

Ici

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub

Luca Cucina Italiana

Analog

Masala

Mikuni

Spoon Korean Bistro

Nature's Express

Toast

Victory Burger

Zachary's Chicago Pizza





Cup of Classical









Seek and You Shall Find





THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC
MARIGOLD
HOTEL
NOW PLAYING IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE

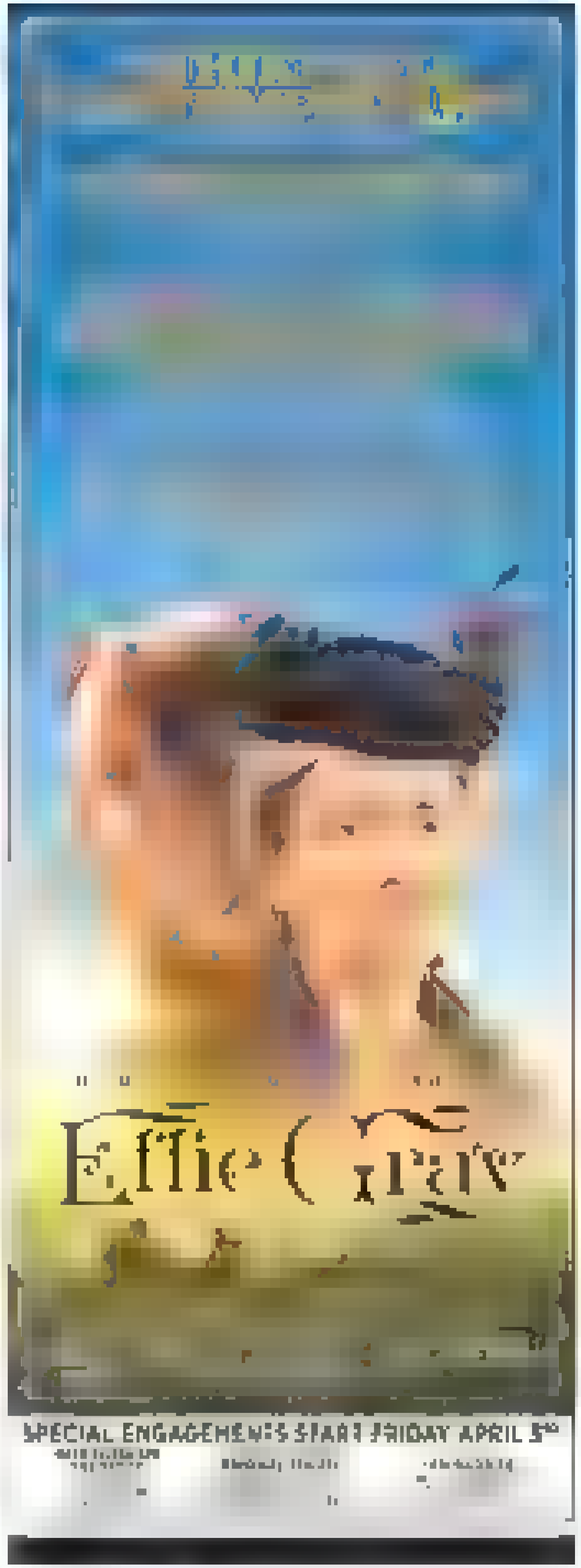
WINNER
WINNER
WINNER
THE SALT OF THE EARTH

WILD TALES
NOW
PLAYING



Showtimes Online





Showtimes Online

LANDMARK THEATRES

GRAND LAKE THEATRE

$5 TUESDAYS
SUPER BARGAIN DAY

FREE POPCORN ON WEDNESDAYS

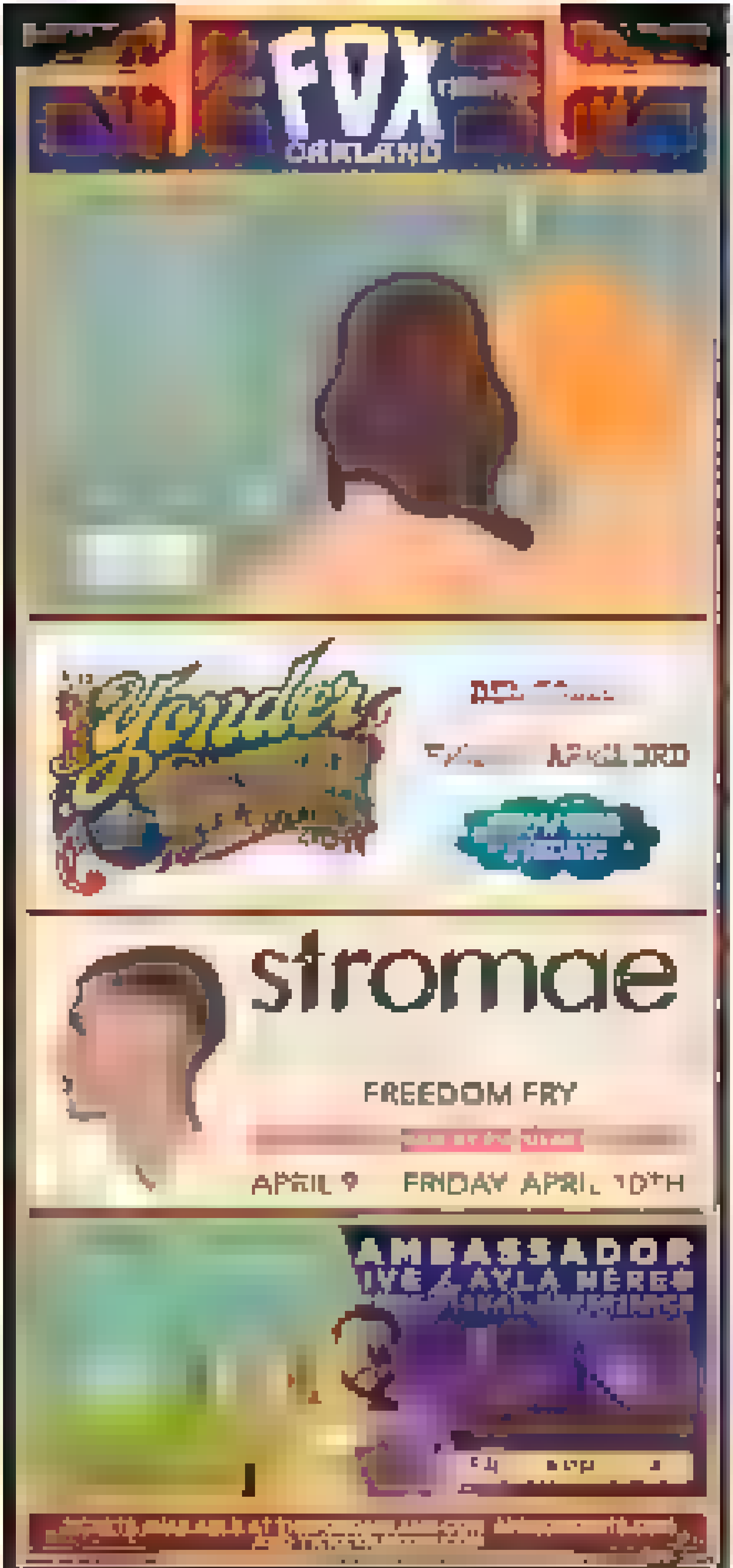
ONE-NIGHT STANDS

NEW PARKWAY



Monuments to Acrimony

Wreckage and uncertainty plague the intersection at Haste Street and Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley



Telling Stories Through Sound

Oakland-based performing arts troupe RAGG combines experimental compositions and innovative storytelling.

By Sam Levin




Cookies
BAY AREA STOP BUYING FAKE GELATO, FAKE SHERBERT AND FAKE COOKIES!!
Don't be fooled by FAKE COOKIE COMPANIES, we are the ONLY collective in the Bay Area to work with Berner and the Cookie Fam, and we are the only Bay Area collective with Authentic Cookie Fam Genetics; Home of the Official Cookie Fam SUNSET SHERBERT and GELATO and Official BERNER'S COOKIES.
Friends don't let friends smoke fake cookies.
$5
$15
$50
WAX FOR $20 A GRAM
COOKIES SF
5234 MISSION ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112
(415) 769-5001
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
9 AM - 10 PM
@CookiesSF215









THURSDAY 2

All Ages

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

FRIDAY 3

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

THE SPEAKER BOX CAFE

$1 COFFEE

7AM TO 7PM

SIERRA VALLEY

THURS 4/2

BACHACO

BANG DATA

NEW PARISH

FRIDAY 4/24

J BOOG

BRICK & MORTAR

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

THE ROCK STEADY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY PARISH ENTERTAINMENT GROUP



Switchboard Music Festival

SATURDAY 4

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant Garde

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SUNDAY 5

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gospel & Vocal









Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

MONDAY 6

Experimental & Avant Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

VENUE DIRECTORY EAST BAY

The Dark Entry

OAKLAND'S ONLY HISTORIC PIANO BAR

HANDLEBAR

HANDLEBAR IS OPEN FOR YOUR DRINKING & DINING PLEASURE

Open for ... GAMES!

DINNER BRUNCH LUNCH

Yoshi's oakland

VICTOR WOOTEN feat. JD Blair

JOHNNY A

KYMBERLY JACKSON

JIMMY THACKERY

JAZZ FUNK SOUL

MICHAEL SCHENKER'S

JOHN ABERCROMBIE

MS. LISA FISCHER AND GRAND BATON

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY ROAST & COMEDY SHOW

LUTHER VANDROSS TRIBUTE

COMING SOON

OMAR SOSA

DWELE

DAVE MASON

RACHELLE FERRELL

TUESDAY 7

All Ages

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

WEDNESDAY 8

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

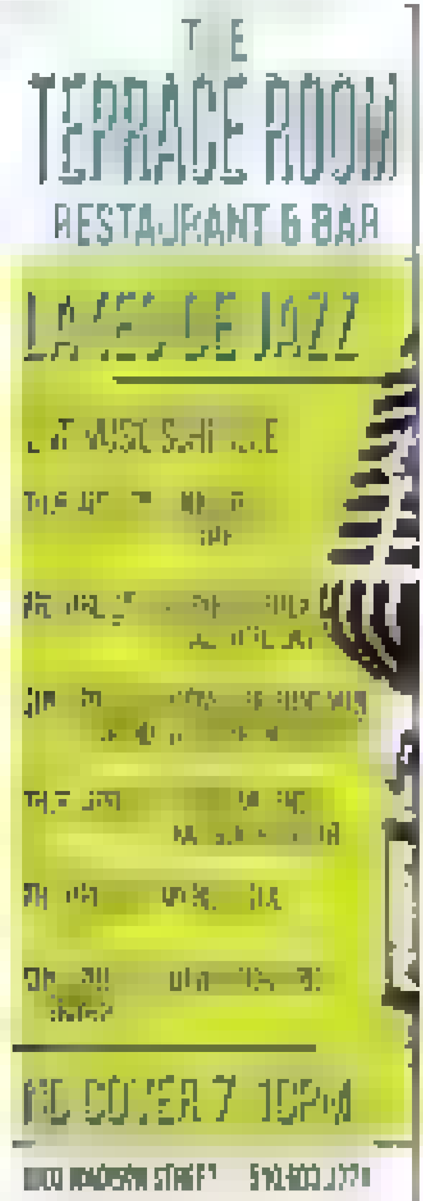
Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop









THURSDAY 2

FRIDAY 3

SATURDAY 4

SUNDAY 5

MONDAY 6

TUESDAY 7

WEDNESDAY 8

Earl Sweatshirt

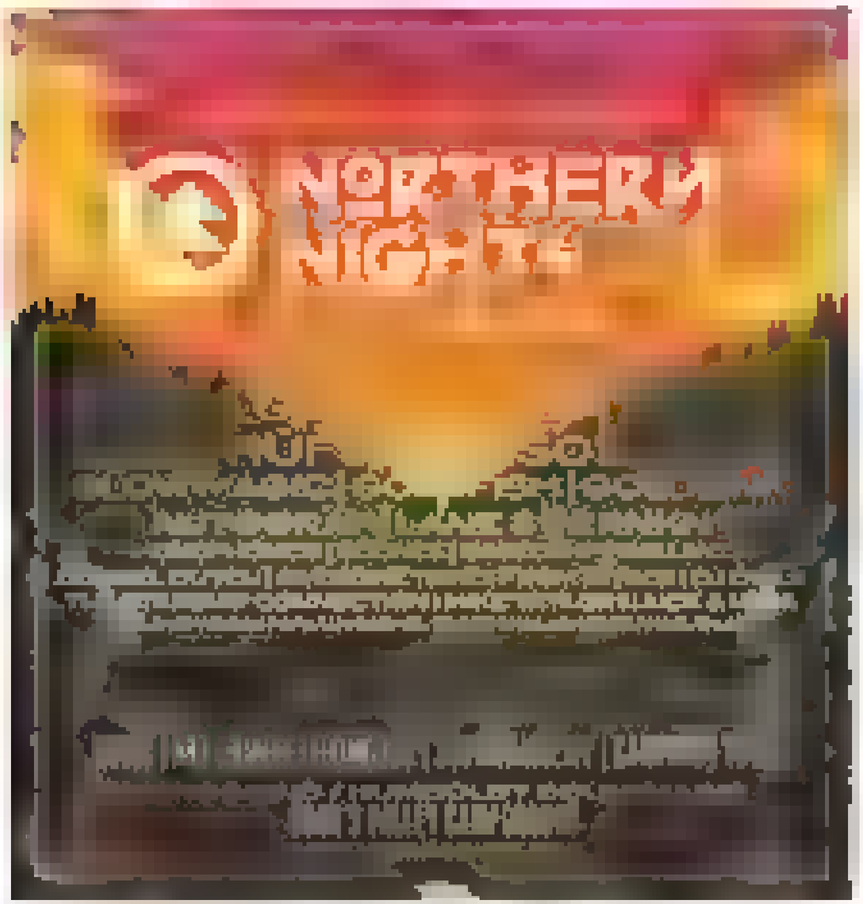
SACRED TATTOO
INDUSTRIAL PIERCING
17TH ST DOWNTOWN OAKLAND











On Unresponsive Texters

Let go of your texpectations

By Anna Pulley



Free Will Astrology

Horoscopes for the week of April 2-8

By Rob Brezsny



Aries (March 21–April 19): "Chocoearism" is an English slang word that's defined as having the tendency, when eating a chocolate Easter Bunny, to bite the head off first. I recommend that you adopt this direct approach in everything you do in the coming weeks. Don't get bogged down with preliminaries. Don't get distracted by minor details, trivial formalities, or peripheral concerns. It's your duty to sweep straight into the center of the action. Be clear about what you want and unapologetic about getting it.

Taurus (April 20–May 20): The American snack cake known as a Twinkie contains 68 percent air. Among its 37 other mostly worthless ingredients are sugar, water, cornstarch, the emulsifier polysorbate 60, the filler sodium stearoyl lactylate, and food coloring. You can't get a lot of nutritional value by eating it. Now let's consider the fruit known as the watermelon. It's 92 percent water and 6 percent sugar. And yet it also contains a good amount of Vitamin C, lycopene, and antioxidants, all of which are healthy for you. So if you are going to eat a whole lot of nothing, watermelon is a far better nothing than a Twinkie. Let that serve as an apt metaphor for you in the coming week.

Gemini (May 21–June 20): You may be as close as you have ever gotten to finding the long-lost Holy Grail — or Captain Kidd's pirate treasure, for that matter, or Marie Antoinette's jewels, or Tinkerbell's magical fairy dust, or the smoking-gun evidence that Shakespeare's plays were written by Francis Bacon. At the very least, I suspect you are ever-so-near to your personal equivalent of those precious goals. Is there anything you can do to increase your chances of actually getting it? Here's one tip: Visualize in detail how acquiring the prize would inspire you to become even more generous and magnanimous than you already are.

Cancer (June 21–July 22): People are paying attention to you in new ways. That's what you wanted, right? You've been transmitting subliminal signals that convey messages like "Gaze into my eternal eyes" and "Bask in the cozy glow of my erotic empathy." So now what? Here's one possibility: Go to the next level. Show the even-more-interesting beauty that you're hiding below the surface. You may not think you're ready to offer the gifts you have been "saving for later." But you always think that. I dare you to reveal more of your deep secret power.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22): Some people believe unquestioningly in the truth and power of astrology. They imagine it's an exact science that can unfailingly discern character and predict the future. Other people believe all astrology is nonsense. They think that everyone who uses it is deluded or stupid. I say that both of these groups are wrong. Both have a simplistic, unbalanced perspective. The more nuanced view is that some astrology is nonsense and some is a potent psychological tool. Some of it is based on superstition and some is rooted in a robust and sophisticated understanding of archetypes. I encourage you to employ a similar appreciation for paradox as you evaluate a certain influence that is currently making a big splash in your life. In one sense, this influence is like snake oil, and you should be skeptical about it. But in another sense it's good medicine that can truly heal.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): According to the Biblical stories, Peter was Christ's closest disciple, but acted like a traitor when trouble came. After Christ was arrested, in the hours before the trial, Peter denied knowing his cherished teacher three different times. His fear trumped his love, leading him to violate his sacred commitment. Is there anything remotely comparable to that scenario developing in your own sphere, Virgo? If you recognize any tendencies in yourself to shrink from your devotion or violate your highest principles, I urge you to root them out. Be brave. Stay strong and true in your duty to a person or place or cause that you love.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Marketing experts say consumers need persistent prodding before they will open their minds to possibilities that are outside their entrenched habits. The average person has to be exposed to a new product at least eight times before it fully registers on his or her awareness. Remember this rule of thumb as you seek attention and support for your brainstorms. Make use of the art of repetition. Not just any old boring, tedious kind of repetition, though. You've got to be as sincere and fresh about presenting your goodies the eighth time as you were the first.

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): In Cole Porter's song "I Get a Kick Out of You," he testifies that he gets no kick from champagne. In fact, "mere alcohol doesn't thrill me at all," he sings. The same is true about cocaine. "I'm sure that if I took even one sniff that would bore me terrifically, too," Porter declares. With this as your nudge, Scorpio, and in accordance with the astrological omens, I encourage you to identify the titillations that no longer provide you with the pleasurable jolt they once did. Acknowledge the joys that have grown stale and the adventures whose rewards have waned. It's time for you to go in search of a new array of provocative thrills and games.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): The English writer William Wordsworth (1770-1850) wrote hundreds of poems. Among his most famous was "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," which is also known as "Daffodils." The poem sprang from him after a walk he took with his sister around Lake Ullswater in the English Lake District. There they were delighted to find a long, thick belt of daffodils growing close to the water. In his poem, Wordsworth praises the "ten thousand" flowers that were *Continuous as the stars that shine/And twinkle on the Milky Way.* If you are ever going to have your own version of a daffodil experience that inspires a burst of creativity, Sagittarius, it will occur in the coming weeks.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Your subconscious desires and your conscious desires seem to be at odds. What you say you want is not in precise alignment with what your deep self wants. That's why I'm worried that "Don't Stop" might be close to morphing into "Don't start" — or vice versa. It's all pretty confusing. Who's in charge here? Your ego self or your true self? Your conscious, conditioned, habit-bound personality or your wise, eternal, ever-growing soul? I'd say it's a good time to retreat into your sanctuary and get back in touch with your primal purpose.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Sometimes you're cool, but other times you're hot. You can turn from acting aloof and distracted to being friendly and attentive. You swing from bouts of laziness to bursts of disciplined efficiency. It seems that you're always either building bridges or burning them, and on occasion you are building and burning them at the same time. In short, Aquarius, you are a master of vacillation and a slippery lover of the in-between. When you're not completely off-target and out of touch, you've got a knack for wild-guessing the future and seeing through the false appearances that everyone else regards as the gospel truth. I, for one, am thoroughly entertained!

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20): How can you ripen the initiatives you have set in motion in recent weeks? Of the good new trends you have launched, which can you now install as permanent enhancements in your daily rhythm? Is there anything you might do to cash in on the spacious loops that have occurred — maybe even figure out a way to make money from them? It's time for you to shift from being lyrically dreamy to fiercely practical. You're ready to convert lucky breaks into enduring opportunities.

FreeWillAstrology@FreeWillAstrology.com

Thur Apr 2 8pm $12
The People's Mic
(in the Lounge)
Sun Apr 5 5pm Free/Donation
Lounge Rumba
(Every 1st & 3rd Sunday)
La Peña
3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley
www.lapena.org | 510-849-2568

BERKELEY UNDERGROUND
2284 Shattuck Ave Berkeley
SALSA UNDERGROUND
THE PLAYGROUND
TRAP CITY
SUNSET ARCADE
SHWAYZE 4:20
www.Berkeley-Underground.com











Never Enough

Why some people watch porn and "cheating lite."

By Dan Savage

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The Marin
Memorial Center

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